



# Lay Summary of Thesis

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Degree sought:	Doctor of Philosophy	No. of words in the main text of thesis:	85 859
Title of thesis:	<b>“MARTINIQUE IS OURS, NOT THEIRS!” THE CONTESTED POST-COLONIAL INTEGRATION OF MARTINIQUE INTO FRANCE</b>		

Insert the lay summary text here - the space will expand as you type.

This thesis undertakes a close analysis of the integration of the post-colonial society of Martinique into the French nation-state. In 2009, a social movement in Martinique temporarily raised nationalist demands but also sought closer integration into the French state. This thesis examines how this integration has been thwarted by the specific colonial legacies of Martinique and by the politics of departmentalisation of the French state. This dissertation argues that it is impossible to achieve the integration of Martinique into France without addressing the economic and social legacies of colonialism.

However, the 2009 movement was a golden site for observing and instigating social change because the protesters demonstrated and voiced a strong sense of collective identity and solidarity. The findings could be useful to the formulation of Martiniquan political identity, and to the configuration of French integrative policies. I conclude that such policies would be effective if they tackled the lasting impact of colonial discourse in both Martinique and France.

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